

TO: Secretary Paige  
FROM: Acting COO Candy Kane  
RE: FSA Weekly Report  
DATE: July 15, 2002

### **THE WEEK AHEAD**

**Exit Conference for OIG Clinger-Cohen Review:** An exit conference is scheduled for July 15 on the OIG review of ED and FSA enterprise architecture efforts in compliance with the Clinger Cohen Act.

**Audit of Oracle Federal Financials FMS:** FSA will participate in an “end of survey” meeting with OIG on July 16 to discuss OIG’s revised objectives for this audit. OIG is looking at ED and FSA’s implementation of Oracle Federal Financials, which set up our Financial Management Systems (FMSs), allowing automatic reconciliation between FSA, ED, and the Treasury. OIG completed the survey phase during the latter part of June, and the audit phase is to begin this month.

### **KEY NEWS**

**FSA Exceeds Strategic Plan and MIT Goal:** The *Strategic Plan* and *Blueprint for Management Excellence* call for 95% of accepted OIG and GAO recommendations to be resolved and implemented within prescribed timeframes (usually 60 days of the final release). During the month of June, we exceeded the 95% goal and also prepared a Corrective Action Plan for the GAO audit “Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996: Status of Selected Agencies’ Implementation of Administrative Wage Garnishment.”

**Financial Partners Data Mart:** The new FP Data Mart helped staff identify a trend that spurred us to move up three guaranty agency (GA) reviews to “high priority” for this year. The Data Mart provides us the ability to assess and forecast prospective risk trend much faster. Previously, running this kind of data would have taken hours of contractor time, plus staff time, and the data would have been “stale” by the time the analyses were done. The FP Data Mart, allowing us to move more quickly, is strengthening program integrity, allowing ED to more closely safeguard federal funds.

**NSLDS Reengineering Project:** IBM has been chosen as the technology platform vendor for the new National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS II). IBM was chosen for its inter-operability with existing Modernization components, scalability, performance, support, third party industry evaluations, client references, business model, and total cost.

### **RESOLUTION OF KEY ISSUES**

Nothing to report.

### **PUBLIC AFFAIRS ACTIVITIES**

**Urgently-Needed Publications Approvals:** FSA Communications Director Karen Santos Freeman and Monica Woods of the COO's office are scheduled to meeting with OPA Director John Gibbons, Beverley Blondell of EDPubs, Phil Link of Executive Secretariat, Karen Weiss of ODS, and others on July 16 to discuss an effective process for timely publication submission and approval.

We still have not received approval to publish three critical student aid publications-the *Student Guide*, *Funding Your Education*, and the *High School Counselor's Handbook*. These key booklets are updated annually and, per OPA, the 2003-2004 editions must be printed from the '02 printing budget.

Our request for approval of the *Student Guide* and *Funding Your Education* was submitted on April 16. Our request for approval for the *High School Counselor's Handbook* was submitted on June 3.

### **REGULATORY ACTIVITIES**

Nothing to report.

### **POLICY DOCUMENTS**

Nothing to report.

### **GRANT ACTIVITIES**

Nothing to report.

### **ON THE HORIZON**

**NCHELP Conference:** FSA will participate in the NCHelp "Summer Institute" Conference in Buffalo, New York, on July 15-17.

**Risk Assessment Next Steps:** On July 29, work assigned at the July 1, ED CIO "Next Steps After Risk Assessment" meeting is due. Three tasks have been assigned to all ED systems: (1) renewal of the GISRA self-assessment documents, (2) updating the inventory of systems, and (3) an 83-item questionnaire on Critical Infrastructure Protection. These tasks are in addition to previous risk assessment work.

**NDPD Registration Tops 1,700:** FSA's 2<sup>nd</sup> annual National Default Prevention Day (NDPD) is set for August 1, and registration stands at 1,774. This is a 24% increase over last year and a greater number than any single FSA conference. Workshops will be held in each of our 10 regional locations, plus Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico. The full-day program, designed with FFEL and other community partners, is intended to better familiarize participants with the wide variety of default management and prevention tools available. This year, each participant will receive a report comparing their institution's cohort default rate with institutions of comparable type, size, and location.

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Please contact Karen Santos Freeman at 377-4001 with any questions.

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